

1. THE SAINTS HAVE COMMUNION WITH GOD

Having studied "The Holy Spirit", we now have a better understanding of the inter relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. John Owen describes "communion" as the mutual sharing of those good things which delight all those in that fellowship, and "truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" **1 JN 1: 3**

Christians in the early days of the Church were poor, despised, and ridiculed, and yet they were rich in the promise of eternal life. It seemed the height of foolishness for people who had been invited to join these early Christians, to forfeit the "comforts" of the world and share in the "disadvantages" that these early Christians were experiencing.

But for those that the Lord had graciously opened their eyes, they came to realise that it was indeed an honorable, glorious, and desirable fellowship. This communion with God is a Holy and Spiritual communion, as we shall learn.

Because sin separated man from God, there was now no natural state of fellowship between God and man. God is light, but man was now in darkness. God is love, but man was now at enmity with God.

After the fall, men were alienated from God through the ignorance that was in them. Our first relationship with God was so lost through disobedience, that it was impossible for us to return to God.

We have now been enlightened to the fact that the only way back to God is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Though there were those that were declared righteous with God in the Old Testament, through the work of Christ, they did not enjoy the boldness of approach to God that we do through the implementation of the new covenant.

Because of the gracious sacrificing work of Christ, we have the honour and privilege of approaching the throne of grace, into the very presence of God Himself. Christ then, being the foundation of this communion with God, and by the Holy Spirit, believers enjoy boldness of faith. How great is this honour that has been bestowed on us?

The understanding that God and man can live together in fellowship is not comprehended by the world, for this communion is hidden in Christ Jesus.

But we have, in Christ, the way into God's presence without fear.

The love, companionship and trust between David and Jonathon was a very noble relationship, but yet it pales into insignificance compared to the believer's relationship between God and His people. Those of us who enjoy this relationship with triune Godhead, are privileged beyond compare.

This communion has come about by the Lord giving of Himself unto death, to secure our lives. We are now enabled to respond in appreciation to God, by us living our lives in obedience to the acquirements as set out in the gospel.

this communion with *God* will come to perfection at the consummation of our marriage to the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming. We are in the process of being weaned off the pleasures of sin, to the glorious relationship with the Lord.

This initial period of what our future life is going to be, may be regarded as an interlude to show that mutual giving and receiving of *God's* grace and mercy and our obedience and prayers of thanks, maybe a foretaste of things to come.

May this foretaste be of such sweetness and excellence in this communion as to be stirred up to a greater longing for that eternal enjoyment of Him in eternal glory.